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dear ed,

if the n.y.post 1/19 item reading "on january 15...frank delivered...the manuscript ...will be published april 4", and if this is not a prmomo to exploit the borth and death dates, then i think doubleday is really pulling the stops an will be spending much extra money in manufacturing costs or is doing that plus shortening lead time for reviews and promos. i understand there is usually 1-2 months to get the books into the hands of reviewers, etc. with this norm, that gives but two weeks for allediting, typesetting and correcting, printing, binding, etc. this would cost.

i am aware that this could be a stunt, as i am aware that delivery could have been delayed by new developments or new material, but i do not really think so, nor do i interpret the normal flack line, "It includes a great deal of new and startling material, ..." to mean more than that. for this to be valid, he'd have to lift some of mine, which i do not expect, change his position, or have come up with something radically new on the crime, not on ray. for anything on ray to be relevant, he would have to be proven the killer. you saw frank's hysteria on this at the second bandy show. i do not think he has rewritten his entire book.

this shows all signs of more than a book being involved, for with all doubleday has in it, they have to be crazy to be promoting a second hooey like this. and those book clubs, all three, taking it? if the most reasonable explanation seems to be that there is something to his work, i will await convincing. thanks for keeping me abreast. can be important.

the sahl stuff shows he also is unchanging. he remains brilliant and is correct in saying he does not want to becarrogant. that word does not begin to describe him or his concept of himself. but from the quote, i would have to express sincere regrets at the passing of dick gregory. unless, of course. this is sahl's opinion of dick!

best,

as Johnny Carson . . .!

~~Jill Schary's new book, "Now Please Pass the Moon," will be published by Dial Press on St. Valentine's Day. Its subtitle is "A Memoir of the First Lady of the World"~~ . . . On Jan. 15, which would have been Martin Luther King's 43d birthday, Gerold Frank delivered to Doubleday & Co. the manuscript for "An American Death," an account of the assassination of Dr. King. It includes a great deal of new and startling material, and will be published April 4.

Leland Palmer took over the role of Bonnie in "Applause."

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